www.kstatecollegian.com THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008 Vol. 119 No. 73

# Voices united



Lisle Alderton | COLLEGIAN

Essence Nicholsen, freshman in music, directs the gospel ensemble in the All Faith's Chapel during the group's Wednesday practice.

# Gospel choir has been on campus for more than 40 years

By Amanda Kaim KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

Essence Nicholson stands at the front of the room in a leopard print jacket and jean skirt. She uses her right hand to pull her chestnut hair over her shoulder before lifting both arms in a grand gesture. As she swoops them downward to direct the choir, the voices begin to sing their praise.

Nicholson's body sways as she stands before the choir positioned between the small pews. It is obvious that not only can she hear the music but she can feel the music. Her powerful voice booms over the voices of the choir. Soulful sound resonates from the high ceilings and the message becomes clear. "[The message is] God," said Nich-

olson, sophomore in vocal performance. "The whole message we want to get out is that Jesus saves and God loves you. Whatever we sing, in the end, it's always about Him." JohnElla Holmes, United Black

Voices Gospel Choir advisor, said the choir began at K-State 41 years ago. In spring 2008, however, Holmes said the choir had to be discontinued because certain members were censoring the students who could or could not participate.

Holmes said as a student organization, United Black Voices does not and should not have an admission policy.

"We are United Everybody Voices as far as I'm concerned," Holmes said.

Standing outside the practice area, Holmes bounces with excitement at the chance to share the new group of students. Holmes is teaching a class called Gospel in the African American Community next semester and plans to donate part of her salary for teaching the class to the choir.

"We're coming back," she said. "We're coming back strong. I wanted us back together.

Keisha Floyd, senior in human resources management, is the only returning member of the choir. She said she has noted differences between the old and new choir all ready.

"You can definitely tell that this is more of a family environment," Floyd said. "There's more unity. You can definitely see people coming together to praise the Lord."

Nicholson has been working with choir direction for the last five years, she said.

"The opportunity to do it and work with another choir and just to be a blessing to the choir here at K-State [is what convinced me to direct]," Nicholson said. "I knew I had a lot to give."

Holmes said the choir will perform at a Big 12 event in February in association with the Black Student

See UBV, Page 7

### Healthy Decisions initiative offers new outreach service for students

By Jason Miller KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

With the fall semester winding down, focus has all but completely turned to finals week. For those lucky enough to not have actual finals, they feel the pressure of writing papers or completing other big assignments that will either secure or destroy the grades they worked so

hard for all semester. This phenomenon is nothing new. Since the conception of higher education, there have always been these added stressors accompanying the end of each term.

However, this semester is different. K-State's Healthy Decisions initiative is offering a new outreach service, called Ask Willie, to help students deal with issues that might arise this time of year.

"Whether students are worried or anxious about preparing for finals, their grades or GPAs, finances, going home for the holidays, or talking to their parents about personal issues - just how do you tell your parents you got a D in a class even though you gave it your all?," said Sarah Tedford, K-State HD Coordinator, "we want students to know that it is



not too late to ask for help." This time of year presents many obstacles for students, but Ask Willie is a service that will be available

year-round.

The program is now on-going and the creators hope it will become a staple at K-State. Currently, the Office of Student Activities

and Services is offering the

help.
"We felt like students were not able to find answers to their questions and that was leading to problems for the students, so we are trying to find a way for students to ask those questions and get the answers back as soon as possible," said Bill Harlan, Assistant Coordinator of Student Activities.

For many students, attending college can be an overwhelming experience. Luckily, the Ask Willie service has emerged to fill the void and help students navigate through the maze of a large campus to find exactly what they need.

"I work in the Chemistry Department and everyone there helps me find anything I need," said Michelle Bergman, freshman in business management. "It's definitely nice to have Ask Willie though, because most students don't have what I do."

Ask Willie is not a onestop-shop for fixing problems, but it is a great source of information for students to find where they can take

their problems. 'Our goal is not to duplicate any service that already exists, we're not going to duplicate counseling services, or financial aid, or student life. Our goal is to get them pointed in the right direction," Harlan said.

Students can either submit their questions online at the Ask Willie Web site, .kstate.edu/askwillie, or by text/e-mailing askwillie@kstate.edu.

## Car reported stolen

**By Eric Davis** KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

When Auto 4 Less opened on Sunday, they had one less car than when they closed the night before, according to a Riley County Police report.

Lt. Josh Kyle of the Riley County Police Department said a black 1996 Mitsubishi Eclipse was stolen from the

According to a police report, the vehicle was a twodoor model, had black and silver rims and a 30-day tag.

Kyle said there are no suspects in the case.

## Man attacked **Tuesday**

By Eric Davis KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

A Manhattan man was walking home Tuesday night when he was attacked by a group of men, according to a Riley County Police report.

The 21-year-old man was walking to his house on Fourth and Vattier streets when three unidentified men appeared and began beating him, according to the report.

The men struck the victim repeatedly in the head and torso and tried to take items from his pockets. Nothing was stolen, howev-

## Pottery for purchase



Guild held their annual Christmas sale in the Student Union on Wednesday. **Bridgett** Hogan, sophomore in conservation biology, rotates and examines

The K-State Potters

**Chelsy Lueth** 

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### Puzzles | Fugene Sheffer

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#### YOU SUCK | BY NOLAN FABRICIUS AND JEFF BROWN

#### IN YOUR PLAY, THE THREE WISE MEN THEY'RE VERY VALUABLE FRAGRANCES I MEAN, IT'S ALL LIKE "HEY! OK, HERE'S ANOTHER PROBLEM PRESENT JESUS WITH GOLD, USED TO MAKE INCENSE, WHICH WAS CONGRATS ON HAVING A BABY! I FOUND WITH YOUR HOLIDAY FRANKENSTEIN, AND MIR - THE LATTE. HISTORICALLY USED AT FUNERALS TO HERE'S SOME STUFF TO KEEP HIM PAGEANT I ASSUME TO BE IN REFERENCE TO THE COVER UP THE SMELL OF THE ROTTING FROM STINKIN UP THE PLACE WHEN RUSSIAN SPACE STATION. CORPSE. HE DIES! OH AND HERE'S SOME SERIOUSLY? WHAT A S\*\*\*Y THE GIFTS WERE ACTUALLY GIFT TO GIVE SOMEONE RIGHT I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT GOLD FRANKINCENSE AND YOU'RE KIND OF RIGHT. WHAT THE FEEK ARE WHAT NOW. RANKINCENSE AND MYRRH? MISTER PICKY

#### THE BLOTTER ARRESTS IN RILEY COUNTY

### **TUESDAY**

Nahshon David Zellous, 1330 Yuma St., was arrested at 10:10 a.m. for unlawful acts relating to possession of depressants, stimulants or hallucinogenic drugs or other substances. Bond was set at \$1,000. Michael Patrick Sol, 2302 Treesmill Court, was arrested at 10:15 a.m. for theft, making false reports and counterfeiting. Bond was set at \$2,500. Jessica Levi Hedgecock, 8670 E. Highway 24, Apt. A, was arrested at 11:25 a.m. for unlawful acts

relating to possession of depressants, stimulants or

hallucinogenic drugs or other substances. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Marvin Eugene Berroth II, 818 Smith St., was arrested at 4:50 p.m. for probation violation. Bond was set at \$1,500 Brandon Terrell Cox, 404 Ehler Road, was arrested

of depressants, stimulants or hallucinogenic drugs or other substances. Bond was set at \$1,000. Travis Daniel Forman, Wamego, was arrested at 6:43 p.m. for aggravated battery. Bond was set at \$3,000.

at 5:19 p.m. for unlawful acts relating to possession

Virginia Rose Mitchell Wynn, 1415 Flint Hills Place, Apt. 1102, was arrested at 8:50 p.m. for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$3,000. Ombre Rose Lewis, 501 Stone Drive, Apt. 1308, was arrested at 9:50 p.m. for battery. Bond was set

REAL WISE MAN WO HAVE WHIPPED UP A FRANKENSTEIN. THEY'RE FUNCTIONAL AND FUN

#### WEDNESDAY

at \$500.

YOU.SUCK.COMIC@GMAIL.COM

Marcella Marie Hyde, 423 Laramie St., was arrested at 2:40 a.m. for failure to appear. Bond was set at

### THE PLANNER | CAMPUS BULLETIN BOARD

The K-State Bakery Science Club will have a Christmas bake sale from 3 to 5 p.m. today in the first-floor hallway of Shellenberger Hall.

The Graduate School announces the final oral defense of the doctoral dissertation of Corey Schliep at 10 a.m. today in Justin 254.

The Graduate School announces the final oral defense of the doctoral dissertation of Shilpa Sood at 2:30 p.m. today in Throckmorton 4031.

The Graduate School announces the final oral defense of the doctoral dissertation of Bernard Wiredu at 3 p.m. Friday in Hale 114.

The Graduate School announces the final oral defense of the doctoral dissertation of Eric Moon at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 15 in Cardwell 119.

The Graduate School announces the final oral defense of the doctoral dissertation of James Isemann at 10 a.m. Dec. 16 in Eisenhower 201.



#### FRIDAY'S WEATHER

MOSTLY CLOUDY High | 48° Low | 25°

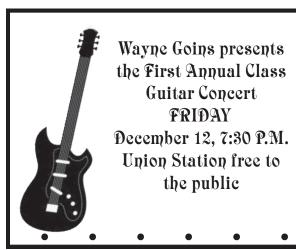
#### **CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call news editor Jacque Haag at 785-532-6556 or e-mail collegian@spub.ksu.edu.

### KANSAS STATE **COLLEGIAN**

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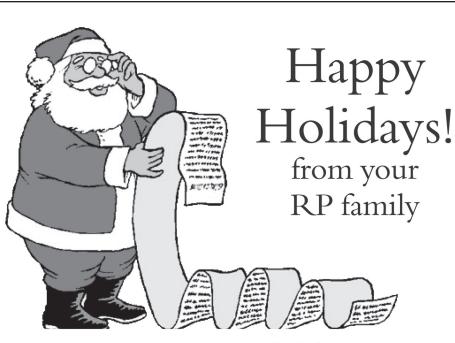






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> Office of Student Activities & Services Ground Floor, K-State Student Union

> > Phone: 785-532-6541 Email: kstatehd@k-state.edu

# Local musician records 'Get Little' in the Little Apple

By Steven Miller KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

Malcolm Cunningham's studio apartment on the west side of Manhattan was filled with the aroma of strong coffee and the machinery of his trade. Turn tables, keyboards, microphones and various sound systems for mixing and synthesizing sounds were situated beside each other; to an untrained eye it was just a blur of electronics.

Cunningham, an Indiana native, came to Manhattan after his stepfather, Wallace Ray Kidd, became ill. Cunningham helped take care of Wallace, but to no avail. Cunningham nevertheless decided to stay on after his stepfather's death and make Manhattan his new home and studio.

"Music has been in my family for years," Cunningham said. "My stepbrother, Rod Hurt, played behind Kenny "Baby Face" Edmonds for a number of years. I used to climb down the stairs to listen to them rehearsing. At that time they used to play in the basement."

Indeed his musical roots run deep. His mother, Mary Louise Caudle-Kidd, has played piano for as long as he can remember. She plays Sunday mornings at Bethel AME Church.

"My father is a reverend for Disciples of Christ Prison Rights and Criminal Justice in Indianapolis. The last time I went out there I connected with a friend named Winston Moore who set me up with the producer at LA Entertainment and Birmingham Entertainment," he said. "We're still going back and forth, so for the time being I'm mostly recording for artists in the area.

Cunningham entered the music business recording. When he was 14 years old, he worked as a disc jockey for parties in his neighborhood with his turn tables when the technique just started to become popu-

"Then I got into expanding from just turn tables to drum machines and synthesizers, so that by 17 years old I had a recording studio. I would record different rappers in my neighborhood, and then I finally decided to start my own group. We were called Easy Come, Easy Go. I was Easy Go," he laughed.

'We used to enter contests," he said as he began to talk about their early success. "One time we even won something – third place at the roller rink for rapping. We were sort of a Run-DMC kind of group, the two of us," he said.

All artists must grow to adapt their style and method, and this is especially true when their art is attached to something as rapidly changing as electronics.

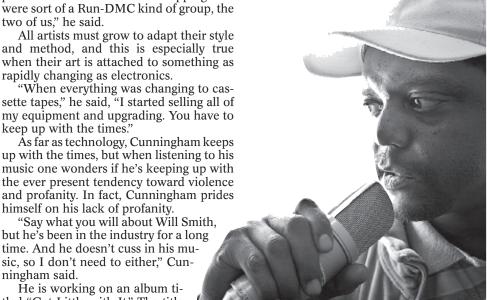
"When everything was changing to cassette tapes," he said, "I started selling all of my equipment and upgrading. You have to keep up with the times?

As far as technology, Cunningham keeps up with the times, but when listening to his music one wonders if he's keeping up with the ever present tendency toward violence and profanity. In fact, Cunningham prides himself on his lack of profanity. "Say what you will about Will Smith,

sic, so I don't need to either," Cunningham said. He is working on an album titled "Get Little with It." The title alone is a kind of reversal of the

time. And he doesn't cuss in his mu-

See MUSICIAN, Page 8



Lisle Alderton | COLLEGIAN

dif-

Malcom Cunningham, a rapper from Indianapolis, works from his home study on producing beats.

6. Electric Christmas lights were

b. Thomas Edison's assistant.

7. Hanukkah can be spelled

c. the founder of General Electric.

8. The first postage stamp to com-

memorate Christmas was issued in

invented in 1882 by

a. Thomas Edison.

d. Nikola Tesla.

ferent ways.

a. 3

b. 4

c. 17

d. 24

a. 1910

b. 1937

c. 1948

d. 1974

designed in \_

a. 1797

b. 1843

c. 1894

d. 1996

## **A-T-glow**



Sara Manco | COLLEGIAN

Alpha Tau Omega shows off its Christmas lights Wednesday night.

### **HOLIDAY CALENDAR**

- **December 2008** 6 - St. Nicholas Day (International)
- 8 Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
- 8 Hajj (Muslim)
- 8 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (Sikh) 11 - Eid Al Adha (Muslim)
- 12 Virgin of Guadalupe (Mexico)
- 13 Santa Lucia Day (Sweden)
- 16-25 Las Posadas (Mexico)
- 21 Litha Summer Solstice (Pagan, Southern Hemisphere)
- 21 Yule Winter Solstice (Pagan, Northern
- Hemisphere) 22 - Hanukkah (Jewish) (begins the day before)
- 25 Christmas (Christian, Roman Catholic,
- 26 Boxing Day (Canada, United Kingdom)
- 26 Kwanzaa (African-American) (until Jan. 1)
- 29 Last day of Hanukkah (Jewish)
- 29 Al Hijra Muslim New Year
- 31 Omisoka (Shinto)
- December: Safe Toys and Gifts Month, National Stress-Free Family Holiday Month and Universal Human Rights Month. The first week of December is Aplastic Anemia Awareness Week, and the third week is Human Rights

Week, as well as International Language Week.

- 1 Feast of St. Basil (Christian, Orthodox)
- 1 Japanese New Year
- 1 Ganjitsu / Oshogatsu New Year (Shinto)
- 5 Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday (Sikh)
- 6 Epiphany (Christian)
- 6 Fast of 10th Tevet (Jewish)
- 6 Three Kings' Day (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic)
- 7 Christmas (Orthodox)
- 7 Ashura (Islamic, Muslim)
- 7 The Nativity of Jesus Christ (Christian, Orthodox)
- 13 Lohri (Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh)
- 14 Pongal / Makar Sankranti (Hindu)
- 16 Religious Freedom Day
- 20 World Religion Day (Baha'i) 26 - Chinese Lunar New Year (China, Korea, Taiwan,
- Vietnam)
- 26 India Republic Day 26 - Tet Nguyen Dan (Vietnam) "Year of the Buffalo"

27 - Losar (Buddhist) January: National Glaucoma Awareness Month, Hot Tea

Month, Oatmeal Month, Prune Breakfast Month, Retail Bakers Month, Soup Month, National Radon Action Month, and Adopt a Rescued Bird Month, among others. International Printing Week, World Kiwanis Week and National Handwriting Analysis Week are in January also.

### **HOLIDAY FUN**

#### 1. Bing Crosby's "White Christmas" single — the bestselling holiday single – has sold copies worldwide

### since 1942.

- a. 10 million
- b. 25 million
- d. 100 million

#### is the highest-grossing holiday movie to date.

- a. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000) b. "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)
- c. "Home Alone" (1990)
- d. "Elf" (2003)

#### 3. The earliest known reference to a Christmas tree was in

- a. the Bible. b. a poem written in 1678.
- c. a book written in 1802.
- d. a pamphlet printed in 1570.
- hold(s) the record for the most No. 1 Christmas singles.
  - a. Gene Autry
  - b. The Beatles
  - c. Celine Dion d. \*NSYNC
- 5. England had only white
  - b. 7
  - c 19
  - d. 30

- Christmases in the 20th century.

### 10. To celebrate Kwanzaa, candles in are lit for each day of the

9. The first Christmas card was

### celebration.

- a. candelabra b. menorah
- c. kinara
- d. septora

Answers: 1. C, 2. A, 3. D, 4. B, 5. B, 6. B, 7. C, 8. B, 9. B, 10. C

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KANSAS STATE **COLLEGIAN** 

# Crack down

## Foreign countries take steps to combat terrorism



NICK A. **WILSON** 

Hearing of death and destruction abroad comes as no surprise to Americans. While the people of this country become numb to terrorism, families in other parts of the world lose loved ones every day. Hopefully the arrest of members of the French and Spanish terrorist group Eta will help to slow the destruction of the regime.

The Eta group pushed for independence in the Basque regions of southwest France and northern Spain in the 1960s during the dictatorship of Francisco Franco. Since then, they have carried out numerous attacks, mainly on members of European police forces, to show that they continue to operate, according to BBC News.

France recently began resuming the arrest of Eta suspects after the militant group called off a ceasefire in June 2007 that had been going on for more than a year. About 36 people that have been linked to Eta have been arrested in France since January, according to official ministry figures.

On Monday, 31-year-old Aitzol Irionda and two other Eta members were arrested in southwest France. Irionda had presumably taken over the reins of the terrorist group from its former military head, Mikel Garikoitz Aspiazu Rubina, who was arrested last month. Sources say that Irionda was intended to be a substitute leader until Mikel is released from jail.

Aitzol Irionda was found carrying guns and fake identity papers, according to French police. Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, the Spanish Interior Minister was delighted to announce the arrest of Irionda, claiming that he was the "number one" Eta member.

The increase in arrests last week were because of the murder of a business man in the Basque area. This was the first attack since the arrest of its former leader. Rubalcaba said he will continue the hunt for Eta members "until this finishes." He warned that if there were other members of Eta considering taking over for Irionda that "I can assure them that, from this moment, we are looking for you."

Steve Kingstone, a BBC News correspondent in Madrid, said "the group still has the potential to kill and has pledged to continue its campaign of violence with a view to securing an independent Basque state."

Since January 2008, France and Spain have been in cooperation to crack down harder on Eta than in previous years. The signing of a special accord at the beginning of this year allows Spanish agents to cross the border into southwestern France. This is clearly a positive sign that both parties want to do as much as possible to help bring down members of Eta.

Though many arrests have been and will be made, the presence of a militant terrorist group is something that should be handled with the most diligent care. Michele Alliot-Marie, the French Interior Minister, said the latest three arrests were proof of France's "resolute commitment in the fight against Basque terrorism."

Increased international support is necessary to ensure the safety of those living



Molly Miller | COLLEGIAN

in the Basque region. Any act of terrorism should be discussed by key officials to ensure appropriate and immediate action. It is all too common to see responses that are fatally slow, like the case in Mumbai, India. If the French and Spanish authorities truly want to rid Eta from being a serious threat, the use of more undercover officials is key to undermining the structure of such a terrorist organization.

Hopefully the work of French and Spanish authorities will strengthen to help bring resolution to a longlasting problem. This is one of the many steps the world must take in order to counteract terrorism.

Nick A. Wilson will someday rule the world. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

# Making the grade shouldn't interfere with real lessons



ORAM

During this time of year we find finals looming ominously on the ho-

It can become hard to see the goals that lie behind the clouds of tests and even harder to remember that grades don't define who you are.

The past few months we have been working toward this pinnacle, and likewise, most of us having been laboring toward that final grade.

The writer Alec Bourne once said, "It is possible to store the mind with a million facts and still be entirely uneducat-

As I look at my friends and many others scurrying around in a mad rush to finish up the year, I can't help but wonder where the real

education is taking place for students.

All semester we have

been forced through the mundane hurdles that seem to fence us into our formal education. We constantly find ourselves sitting in lecture after lecture in which the professor seems just as bored as

What happened to the curiosity and passion of learning?

Anymore, it seems we are solely searching for that A to boost our grade point average. That is simply all the system is promoting.

Some of us, and you know who you are, have come out a little disappointed in our academic work this semester. Some are more disappointed than others and will have to work harder to prepare for their finals.

However, now that classes are coming to a close, it's time to take a step back and evaluate what really matters. The college experience has many valuable lessons, and let's face it, the majority of these lessons are not found in the class-



room

Most of us know the most important lessons we learn have nothing to do with lectures or papers - they come instead from our personal lives. They come from relationships, the development of our values, adjusting to living independently and time management, just to name a few.

Through these important experiences and trials, we eventually start to get the hang of what life is about. The lessons we learn while in pursuit of a new life and fresh start

at K-State are not graded but are the ones that truly count. They are not the homework you stay up late working on, or the tests you spent weeks preparing for.

The world tells us that performance is what

The American corporate culture has shifted away from what individuals may enjoy to what their bosses demand. As students, we begin this lesson in college.

A realization like this leads one to ask an important question: who is

right? Believe it or not, the "world" and the society we have filled it with are seldom right.

Molly Miller | COLLEGIAN

Don't get overly stressed with a few bad grades. A C or even an F will not make you who you are, and those who judge you as such are foolish.

As Zig Ziglar so wisely put it, "Remember, failure is an event, not a person."

Shane Oram is a sophomore in biology. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

### THE FOURUM

The Campus Fourum is the Collegian's anonymous call-in system. The Fourum is edited to eliminate vulgar, racist, obscene and libelous comments. The comments are not the opinion of the Collegian nor are they endorsed by the editorial staff.

To the cute blonde track girl in my plumbing class: I have the hots for you. I always sit right next to the

The only good thing about snow being on the ground is watching everyone that slips on the ice.

Do you want to see my holiday

Bertrand has no yield or stop signs from Manhattan Avenue to Juliette, so stop yielding and drive straight through.

Bill Snyder, just because the place is named after you doesn't mean you own it. Park in one spot like the rest of us.

To the girl in my Management 421

class in the black tights and eskiho boots: you make my day brighter.

need to get a life. **Once** again, Adam Pham writes an article about a topic no one was

discussing. Good one.

**KSU** Parking Services suck, and they

Hey, Jim Banks, MTV doesn't have any credibility to injure.

My boy got some booty this weekend. Congrats, man.

This is Trailer Park Tonya. I'm driving me and my friends to get some biscuits in my green truck.

**The** Romans built the Colosseum faster than the parking garage is being built.

I found a fork. It folds in half. Where did it come from?

A hot blonde just walked out in front of my Dodge. I about rammed Why don't you do us all a favor and not call the Fourum unless you have something funny to say.

**Is** it cool if a threesome involves two guys?

Dear Fourum, I now am now boycotting Jimmy John's for their lack of tomato and mayo.

Fourum, I have a drunk driver driving me, and I'm really scared. Please

I just paid my \$500 phone bill, and you're the first person I called.

Hey, Fourum, where's a good place to sleep on campus?

I heard they just got the Atari in Colombia.

I didn't realize they sold sex in a can.



today's Fourum.

kstatecollegian.com

THE FOTO FOURUM ksufotofourum

@gmail.com

**TO THE POINT** 

# **Editors** share holiday musings

"This sounds strange, but my favorite Christmases were when there was no Christmas. My brother often worked holidays, so we would celebrate Christmas on a random dav. Because of this, my mom and I would spend all of Christmas Day watching movies in our pajamas and eating holiday treats."

—Jacque Haag, news editor

"On Christmas Eve my senior year of high school in Houston it snowed about two inches over night. My friends and I hadn't seen snow in forever so all night we drew obscene snow pictures on all the cars outside, effectively ruining the virgin snow younger kids could have drawn in the next morning." - Whitney Hodgin, metro editor

"My funniest Christmas moment happened so many years ago... Twas the night before Christmas and I was asleep in the house, when my brothers snuck up to my room, just like a mouse, they ushered me to the barn to show me what was there, it was my new bike wrapped by my parents with care, in my excitement I arose such a clatter, that my mom came out to see what was the matter, she found me and my brothers and began to yell, but we reminded her it was Christmas and all was swell.

- Brad Dornes, sports editor

To see more holiday musings from the Collegian editorial board, check out kstatecollegian.com.

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### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

The Collegian welcomes your letters to the editor. They can be submitted by e-mail to letters@spub.ksu.edu, or in person to Kedzie 116. Please include your full name, year in school and major. Letters should be limited to 250 words. All submitted letters might be edited for length and clarity.

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# THE EDGE

KANSAS STATE **COLLEGIAN** 

# Healthy holidays

# Students should be nutritious, safe this winter season

**By Shane Bishop**KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

For many, the holidays symbolize a time of family gatherings and merry holiday traditions. However, if your tree causes the lights to dim when you plug it in or you find yourself clutching your belly and grimacing in pain after a hearty feast with the relatives, it might be the year to engage in more health-conscious, safe practices.

Kacey Provenzano, president of the nutrition awareness club Fruit of the Fight, had several tips to help students keep mentally alert during finals week.

"First of all, sleep and adequate rest increases cognitive function and better test scores," said Provenzano, senior in pre-medicine and gerontology. "Breakfast is essential. Foods that are high in fiber and protein but low in added sugar will help you concentrate and help your memory."

"Also, energy drinks meant to keep you from crashing will leave you more drained than before. Healthier options are out there like fruit juices."

Finals will be over with by this time next week, and many travelers will have already begun the journey to be with relatives and loved ones.

Kansas State Highway Patrol Trooper Edna Buttler said there is a significant increase in traffic and being safe is crucial.

"First and foremost, we stress how important it is to check the road conditions before you leave," Buttler said. "Make sure your vehicle is in good mechanical working order."

Barb Blue, travel information program manager for the Kansas Department of Transportation, also suggested travelers pack an emergency kit.

"It may be a while before emergency crews can get to you in the event of a weather emergency," Blue said. "We provide a road condition hotline. You can dial 511 from any phone or log on to our Web site for continuously updated road information."

The holidays also bring the tradition of stringing holiday lights. But Manhattan Fire Marshall Ryan Almes said for college students living in apartments, it's important to take special caution.

"A lot of students will string Christmas lights outside and then run the power cord through a cracked window or a door," Almes said. "That creates an ignition point with the closing door smashing the cord, and a potentially dangerous shock hazard, especially with a metal door."

When selecting a tree, Almes had a few tips to ensure decreased fire-hazard risk.

"If you bounce the trunk of the tree on the ground, the needles shouldn't fall off," he said. "Look for needles that are green and hard to pull back from branches, they should be pliable and not break easily."

Once the tree is brought home, Almes said in addition to checking smoke alarms, to make sure you keep the tree watered and away from heat sources, like vents, as these will dry the tree out.

"If the tree does dry out, it is an extremely dangerous situation," Almes said. "When the season is over, get the tree out of the house right away, and don't ever put it in a fireplace, they burn very hot, and it will damage the fireplace."

One other seasonal issue to mention is depression the shorter days bring for some. Liz Krumrei, psychology intern for K-State Counseling Services, said a multi-faceted approach is helpful in dealing with feeling down in the

"One thing would be to start with awareness of the seasonal affective disorder," Krumrei said. "Some people are more prone to it. As the



Photo illustration by Joslyn Brown | COLLEGIAN

Eating junk food will often result in more fatigue. Students should avoid sugary snacks and eat foods that are high in fiber and protein instead.

days get shorter, some people tend to notice they feel a little down, and it's important to understand why that is happening. I would recommend engaging in activities that normally bring joy, like listening to a certain genre of music, hanging out with friends or exercise."

Krumrei said different approaches work for different people, and it's useful to figure out what works best for the individual.

"Something that works for one person doesn't work for another and by trying a whole range of things, you will find a remedy," she said.



kstatecollegian.com

LIFE AS AN AWKWARD GRAD STUDENT

# Early wake up leads to hangout



ADAM REICHENBERGER

Yesterday, I woke to the sound of my roommate closing my door. I usually sleep with it shut, but I had kept it open in hopes that Scott waking in the next room would in turn wake me. I hoped he would wake at a normal time, something around 10 or 11 a.m.

He woke at 5:30 a.m.

I checked my phone. Absolutely baffled, I normally would have gotten up and asked what was going on, but like I said, it was 5:30 in the morning. I rolled over and shut my eyes.

Moments later, I awoke to the sound of frantic rustling around, followed by the shower being turned on and the washer being opened, loaded and started ... probably with my detergent.

It's still dark outside. Confused, I accepted that he must have pissed himself in the night and awoke suddenly to bathe and wash his sheets and clothes. This by no means was a reasonable conclusion, but at 5:30 in the morning it was solid gold.

Still confused and unable to fall asleep, I laid there awake, spinning around under my covers because that's what I do. It was nearing 6 now, and a loud, obnoxious sound let me know I had a text message.

Every sound that comes out of my phone is loud and obnoxious. Oh, you can down-

load all the songs you want, but you can't use them for anything and even if it's set to vibrate, if you accidently press the play button conveniently located on the front of the phone it will play "Paint It Black" as loud as it can

Anyway, I checked my phone and saw The Most Amazing Girl had sent me a text message. That's how she put her name into my phone the night we met, and I assure you, since then she's done nothing but perfectly support that title in every way. She's an absolute angel, she's absolutely gorgeous, and she absolutely makes me smile all the time.

I've met interesting people before, but they usually fade away once I learn more about them and realize they suck. Everything I learn about this girl makes me like her more.

"Call me when you're awake,

I never went to sleep."
I read that and liked her more. Then I called her.

"Hey, Adam."
"Wow, you sound wide awake, what are you doing?"

"I made my roommate stay up all night with me and now we're getting McDonald's breakfact. Why are you awake?"

fast. Why are you awake?"
"Scott woke me up. I think
he pissed his pants."

"What?"
"Hang on, I still hear him, I'll see what's up."

I opened the door to find my roommate sweeping the kitchen in his underwear.

"Mornin' precious!"
"What are you doing up this

early?"
"You know I like my counters

"You know I like my counter clean, babe."
"I thought you pissed your

pants."
"It's possible."

I went back to my bed and continued the conversation with the prettiest woman I know. Did I mention she has the most beautiful hazel eyes, too? She

"You should come over," I suggested.

"Maybe. We might already have plans"

have plans."
And I liked her more.

Having received no sausage on their Sausage McMuffins, she got off the phone with me to

solve that puzzle.

I opened my door again to see Scott still in his underwear but now dancing to music playing in his head. After convincing him to put some clothes on, we

headed down to Starbucks.

Around 7:30, the girls showed up just as giddy-tired-drunk as we were. The interesting thing about being giddy-tired-drunk is that you actually feel drunk even though you haven't had a sip of alcohol. To remedy this, in our sub-par states of mind, we popped a bottle of wine and spread some glasses around. "Super Mario

World" ensued.

A small glass each later, the girls headed to class while Scott and I played some more Nintendo. Turned out, this pretty girl's class was shortened, so at 9, I picked her up and brought her to my place to nap before her next class.

As I was watching Scott frustratingly struggle with mediocrity at one of my favorite pastimes, I sat down to write this article while The Most Amazing Girl slept beside me using my arm as a leg rest ... and I liked her more.

Adam Reichenberger is a graduate student in economics and mathematics. Please send comments to edge@spub.ksu.edu.

STUDY ABROAD LOG

# East Coast experience uncovers racial issues



DANIELLE MOCCIA

As my semester at Towson University draws to a close, I can't help but look back and

reminisce on my experience here. I've been homeless for a night in New York City and have seen my life flash before my eyes on two occasions. (Apparently drivers here aren't as forgiving of crosswalk-violators as they are in Kansas.)

I've made friends from across the U.S. and have tried exotic foods like latkes, pomegranates and roasted chestnuts. I've gotten to do things I never would have gotten to do had I been in Kansas this semester, like attend tapings of "Saturday Night Live" and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart." I've seen the Liberty Bell and touched Edgar Allan Poe's grave. Once, I even made a pilgrimage to Scranton, Pa., where the plot of my favorite TV show "The Office" is set. However, taking into account that Scranton is just a small industrial town in the middle of nowhere, this is one road trip that was cooler in theory than in

While I wouldn't trade any of these experiences for all the pomegranate seeds in the world, there is one place that continues to stand out to me. Every time I've visited Hampton Mansion, an 18th-century plantation home in Baltimore County, I think of how far we've come in this country with the treatment of African Americans, from enslaving them in the early days to electing one as president in 2008.

However, the summer after my junior year of high school, I was working in my small Kansas hometown, when a customer I didn't know asked me where I was planning on going to college. As soon as I told her I was going to K-State, she replied, "Oh, good. You don't want to go to KU — there are too many black people there." Yikes.

I also have friends in Kansas whose parents would freak out if they were to date a black person. But as far as being prejudiced goes, I am not totally guilt-free. When I found out that all three of my roommates here were black, I panicked at first, because I thought that I would be excluded or treated differently; in retrospect, that sounds ridiculous.

Why this racist sentiment? Towson's campus, having a smaller gap in the black-white ratio, is considerably more diverse than Manhattan. I'm not saying that things here are perfect – I'm sure it all depends on where in Maryland you go – but in my experience, there just seems to be less of a racist "black or white" mentality. And why should there be? After all, we are all just people. Well, at least we thought that we were making progress.

Danielle Moccia is a sophomore in prejournalism and mass communication. Please send comments to edge@spub.ksu.edu. KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

**HEISMAN CANDIDATES** 

#### **TEBOW LOOKS TO BECOME 2ND TWO-TIME HEISMAN WINNER**

Tim Tebow will go for two against a pair of talented quarterbacks from the Big 12

when the Heisman Trophy is handed out Saturday night.

Sam Brad. ford from Oklaho. ma and Colt Mc-Coy from



TIM **TEBOW** 

Texas joined Tebow as Heisman finalists announced Wednes-

The last time all the Heisman finalists were quarterbacks was 2001, when Nebraska's Eric Crouch won the award and quarterbacks held the first six spots.

Tebow, the rugged and multitalented junior from Florida, was the first sophomore to win the Heisman last year and is trying to become the second player to win it

Archie Griffin won the Heisman as a junior in 1974 for Ohio State and again in

Tebow's Gators will play Bradford and the Sooners in the BCS national championship game Jan. 8 in Miami.

Tebow became the first college football player with 20 touchdown passes and 20 rushing touchdowns in 2007, carrying a Florida team that

finished 9-4. This season, Tebow's stats were down, but his play has still been stellar. He is fifth in the nation in passer rating (176.7) with 28 touchdown passes and only two interceptions. He hasn't been asked to run as much this season, but still has 564 yards rushing

and 12 touchdowns Most importantly, the Gators are 12-1 and a victory away from their second national title in three seasons.

Tebow made a strong final case to win another Heisman, leading Florida's 14-point fourth quarter and comeback victory in the Southeastern Conference title game against Alabama last Saturday.

Bradford has directed the highest scoring team in major college football histo-

ry, leading the nation in passrating (186.3)and TD passes (48) while throwing for 4,464 yards. The Soonhave



**BRADFORD** 

scored 702 points and became the first college team in 89 years to reach 60 points in five consecutive games when they won the Big 12 title 62-21 over Missouri last Saturday.

McCoy, who had the imposing task of following Vince Young as Texas' starting quar-

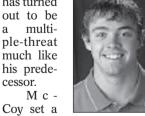
terback has turned out to be multiple-threat much like his prede-

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COLT **MCCOY** 

pletion percentage, breaking the mark set by Duante Culpepper for Central Florida, and is the Longhorns' leading rusher with 576 yards and 10 touchdowns. Texas finished 11-1, with a victory against Oklahoma.

Heisman organizers generally invite three to five players, based on vote totals.

Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell was surprisingly not invited to the ceremony, to be held at the Sports Museum of America in downtown New York for the first

Harrell, the latest in a long line of prolific passers to run coach Mike Leach's Air Raid offense, leads the nation with 4,747 yards passing and has thrown 41 touchdown passes. He also led Texas Tech to a school-record 11 victories and a tie for first in the Big 12 South with Texas and Oklahoma.

--- espn.com

# Floor general

### 4-year starter humbled by early pick-up games with big brother

By Britton Drown KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

It wasn't a fair match up, and Shalee Lehning knew it. Matt was nine years older than his sister, yet he insisted that Shalee find a way to compete with him during their childhood pick-up

basketball games. He was older, more athletic and consistently blocked her shot attempts and won most of the games. Yet, Matt challenged her to find a way around him and to the basket as if he knew his sister would eventually develop into a premier point guard.

"I think that instilled this fire and perseverance inside of me, because I had to find a way to do things a different way than I wanted to," Lehning said.

That fire and perseverance eventually caught the eye of K-State head coach Deb Patterson in 2005.

Before the 2005 season, head coach Patterson knew she needed a leader who would fill the role of point guard on her team. She also knew she would  $hand\,over\,a\,large\,responsibility\,to$ that player to lead a young team in a tough Big 12 Conference.

But after the first week of practice that year, the young 5'8" freshman from Sublette, Kan., who found a way to score on her older brother, stepped up to take yet another challenge.

"We were hoping that she could handle the reins of being a young point guard playing major minutes," Patterson said.

Beginning with her first season in 2005, Lehning became an integral aspect of Patterson's team. She played in all 34 games averaged 7.0 points and 5.6 assists per game, and set a freshman single season record for assists with 189.

"She has always been a great leader, and very tough," Patterson said. "She was up to

all of the challenges that we put in front of her and she wanted to be challenged. She demonstrated all along a very unique ability to lead and to be tough."

Her quick success leadership during her freshman season was recognized as she was selected to the Dallas Morning News Big 12 All Newcomer Team.

"When I came in as a freshman I had no expectations other than I wanted to find a way to contribute to my team. Whatever that needed to be I wanted to do it," Lehning said.

As her career progressed, Lehning developed a reputation as one of the premier ball distributors in the nation. She set single season assist records each year, and eventually set the record for career assists, passing Megan Mahoney (2002-2005) during the Nov. 25 game this season against University of Texas San Antonio with her 590th assist.

"Every great passer has innate instincts," Patterson said. "They see things two and three seconds before most people do. They see things developing in the future, and her ability to do it with such speed and precision is what sets her apart?

Last season, Lehning led the Wildcats to the program's first outright Big 12 regular season championship. The Wildcats finished the season with a 22-10 regular season record. Averaging 11.3 points and accumulating 203 assists, Lehning was named First Team All Big 12.

Before this season, Lehning was nominated for the John Wooden player of the year

"I kind of got the goose bumps," Lehning said. "To even be considered a candidate is very humbling. I'm grateful for the blessing that I've had here and the opportunity to play."



Lisle Alderton | COLLEGIAN

Shalee Lehning, the Wildcats all-time leader in assists, has been the starting point guard since her freshman year. Sublette, Kan., native developed her skills by playing pick-up games with her older brother.

In 2008 as a senior she guides the Wildcat offens with a prolific and deceiving ease. As an effective manager organizes their employees, Lehning has a keen awareness of her teammates on the court. The unselfish point guard has established herself throughout her distinguished career as a truly exceptional leader at the point.

'Great point guards are able to run your team many times without direction," Patterson said. "They are able to take and to lead into the heat of battle, and that's what she does so

With Lehning as point guard, the Wildcats are off to their best start since the 1980-81 season. The season has been highlighted with her third career tripledouble performance during the Nov. 25 game at Arkansas State. During the game she posted 11 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists in route to a 69-58 win. With the performance, Lehning set a Big 12 record with three

triple-doubles.

"It was one of those games where when things are going well for you, you can just tell," she said. "It was actually one of the first times I knew where my numbers were at so I was going after it, but I have to give my teammates credit because they are the ones knocking down shots to get me the assists?

While Lehning has come a long way from getting shots blocked by her older brother, she still is determined to leave a legacy at K-State. She has been humbled by the individual awards gained along the way, yet has her sights set on team-oriented accomplishments.

"I just want people to know that our senior class and me individually gave it all I had every time I stepped foot on the floor," Lehning said. "That I was more consumed with our team and representing the Kansas State jersey more than any individual accolade that I could

**MEN'S BASKETBALL** 

# Cats look to bounce back against Southern Miss

By Cole Manbeck KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

K-State coach Frank Martin assures everyone he is not worried about the toughness of his team.

K-State will need to regain its toughness quickly as it looks to right the ship tonight against a physical Southern Mississippi team in the K-State Holiday Classic at 7 p.m. at the Sprint Center in Kansas City,

The Wildcats (5-3) are on a three-game losing streak, losing all three games by a combined nine points, including a five-point loss at Oregon Sunday.

Wednesday Martin said he isn't one to jump to conclusions because of a bad day. He said after the Oregon game that his team "ran and hid every time the game got physical."

"It's something [toughness] we've spent a lot of time on everyday we practice and we play for the last 2.5 years," Martin said. "It's something that I think we've had the upper hand on the majority of the time during our time here at K-State. Every once in a while it happens. [Or-

egon] played with that certain edge that they did not want to lose and our guys, instead of responding to that, we kind of gave in for a period of the game there. And when that happens, kind of dug a hole that we couldn't climb out of."

Meanwhile, the Golden Eagles (4-3) are riding a two-game slide and are coming off the heels of a

two-point loss at New Mexico. Southern Mississippi is coached by former Iowa State coach Larry Eustachy, who is in his fifth year with the Golden Eagles and has a

career record of 324-211. "They are a typical Larry [Eustachyl coached team." K-State coach Frank Martin said. "They are gonna just be as physical as you can be. They go rebound that basketball. They aren't going to turn it over. They aren't gonna give you easy baskets and they are gonna be as physical as anybody we have played this year."

Southern Mississippi is led by 6-foot-2 junior guard Jeremy Wise, who comes into tonight's game averaging 20.6 points per game.

"They've got a couple of guards



Jonathan Knight | COLLEGIAN

K-State guard, Denis Clemente, tries to drive around a defender. The Wildcats play in Kansas City at the Sprint Center tonight at 7 p.m.

that can really, really score the basketball," Martin said. "One of them -- he's pretty darn good. He's on NBA draft boards, I can tell you

This will be the third game the Wildcats have played at the Sprint Center since it opened. K-State won the Holiday Classic last year against Florida A&M 87-60 in front of a crowd of 17,699.

However, this year's game is a neutral-site game and because of that, is not included in the seasonticket package for season-ticket holders. As of Wednesday morning, only 6,500 tickets had been sold to the game.

### BCS disappoints college football teams, fans once again



**BERKLUND** 

Another year goes by, and another year of disappointments for college football fans.

The Bowl Championship Series is a joke. Every year USC goes to the Rose bowl and plays against a laugher from the Big Ten conference, and teams like Cincinnati get to go to a BCS bowl instead of a proven team like Texas Tech because they won their conference title.

The NCAA and BCS need to get it right and have

There can be so many arguments for teams in the top 10 as to why they should be playing in a BCS game or why they should be playing in a National Championship.

Everything needs to be proven on the field – not by a bunch of voters. Teams like Texas, Alabama, Penn State, USC and Texas Tech are getting left out of a shot at a championship because others think that their wins weren't as impressive or losses were worse than Oklahoma's and Florida's.

Division I football is the only division that doesn't have playoffs; instead we have bowl games.

Bowl games are fun for the most part, because almost every team that has a

record of 6-6 or better gets to travel to a bowl game and play a quality oppo-

What I don't understand is why the NCAA decides not to have a playoff. There are so many different scenarios that would allow for bowl games to still be played without interfering with a playoff system.

Even President-elect Barack Obama agrees that it's about time to have a playoff in college football.

One possible way to still incorporate bowls and have a playoff is to have the top eight teams play against each other in the four BCS bowls. All eight teams seeded 1 – 8 and the winners play in the top two bowls and then the winners play at the designated National

Championship site. It's that easy, you still have all the bowl games being played and you can have a playoff system. I know some teams would be snubbed, that's why there's a backup plan.

The top four teams get byes the first week of the playoffs while the next eight teams play each other for the right to play against those four teams. All games could be played at all four BCS sites, because the first two weeks would both have four games, then as stated earlier go to the top bowls to finish the playoff.

Whether the NCAA and BCS decide on a playoff, most would agree it needs to happen so everything can be settled on the field. There's no reason why so many teams are not getting a chance to play for a National Championship.

Everyone remem-

bers the 1998 K-State team that went undefeated before getting upset in the Big 12 Championship game in double overtime. That team didn't even get to play in a BCS bowl, while teams like the Oklahoma Sooners in 2003 lost 35-7 in the Big 12 Championship game and still went to the National Championship. Nebraska didn't win its division in 2001 and still went to the National Championship, and just last season the Kansas Jayhawks didn't win its division either but still went to the Orange Bowl.

College football needs a playoff, and it needs to happen now.

Steve Berklund is a junior in prejournalism. Please send comments to

sports@spub.ksu.edu.

### **UBV** | Music unites group

#### Continued from Page 1

Union. Their first concert will take place in April.

"I think the performances will be my favorite part," Nicholson said. "We get to show everyone what we've done and what God is do-

Before their practice is completed, the members rise together to give a full performance of the song they have been working on most of the evening. The room overflows with the thunderous voices and the passion they contain for the Lord. Their mouths form perfect circles as their bodies rock. Once they finish the

song, all of the members join hands and form a circle of prayer, asking that God continue to fill their

voices and hearts with his presence.

## MUSICIAN | Free CDs at Sisters of Sound

#### Continued from Page 3

lent hip-hop theme of "Making it Big." Instead, the title track gets down to the basics, starting with a relationship gone wrong: "Buy me this, buy me that/ She loves diamonds and pearls/ Didn't know I saw her cheating/ With my best friend, Earl."

"Instead of blowing

something out of proportion, 'get little' means keeping things simple," Cunningham said. "Just keep moving on and answers will unfold, the truth will be revealed if you just keep your head."

The song changes its focus to the world around him: "I look in the paper, 20,000 dead," and he ponders his role in the tragedies constantly littering the newspaper. His conclusion

unique, especially for his genre. Turning from the race for fame, he raps, "As far as I'm concerned platinum is low," meaning all that goes into the struggle, the vainglory, is low. "Get small, y'all, get small," he urges his audi-

Malcolm Cunningham will continue to record "Get Little With It" here in the Little Apple. You can hear his music on KSDB-FM 91.9, or e-mail him at mcunningham7@cox.net.

"I'll also be giving away free CDs at Sisters of Sound and then Hot Topic shortly after Christmas," he said.

No specific date has been set yet.

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6	8	4		9	2	5		
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8	2		3	7	1		5	4
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PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

# Former Wildcat Pierce has big plans for Web site



By Joel Aschbrenner KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

Most K-State football fans know Terry Pierce as the massive, hardhitting, All-Conference linebacker who anchored K-State's defense from 2000-02. A growing group of fans, however, are getting to know Pierce in a much different way.

In June, Pierce bought *ksufans. com*, which features several popular K-State-oriented message boards. Since buying it, Pierce has become very involved with the site, producing articles about K-State's football team, responding to fans' questions and regularly commenting on the site's message boards.

Pierce, who is known as Bosz56 on *ksufans.com*, bought the site from Michael Rodriguez, *ksufans.com*'s creator, after Rodriguez decided he could not finance the site anymore.

"He said, 'You'll love our site,' so I checked it out," said Pierce, who met Rodriguez through a mutual friend. "I got on the site and saw that there were a bunch of fiery fans and thought 'what the hell – there's no reason I shouldn't buy

Pierce's purchase saved the site from being shut down and created a lot of buzz among users.

"He's really rejuvenated the site," said Nick Ward, freshman in business and member of the site. "He answers every question he gets asked, and you can tell he still really cares about the program."

The site, which was created in January 2006, has been quickly growing and now has more than 2,300 members.

Pierce said he is revamping *ksu-fans.com*, and starting Jan. 1, the site will offer premium membership for \$5 a month.

Pierce plans to unveil the site's new layout around Christmas. He said he has hired writers to cover football, basketball and the administration of the athletic depart-

"Tve been writing stories to go onto the site and building up a team of writers that can write with the kind of fire that I need them to write," Pierce said.

Pierce's knowledge and insight into K-State's athletic program has been the basis for his previous articles and will be the foundation of the site in the future.

"I think we are going to focus on K-State from a former player's standpoint, to give people an idea of what really goes on, because fans hear about things but they don't always know what is going on behind the scenes," Rodriguez said, who still helps manage the site.

Pierce said he is incorporating recruiting content and rankings into *ksufans.com* and expects to see some natural competition with sites like *gopowercat.com* and *k-statefans.com*.

These sites also have ties to na-

tional recruiting Web sites *rivals*. *com* and *scout.com*. Unlike these sites – which are driven by recruiting and breaking news – *ksufans*. *com* offers more discussion and analysis of the K-State teams.

"The driving force of our site is the message board, more so than it is on any other site," Pierce said. "Most all of our members post on the message boards, and it can get heated sometimes, so we have a little bit different dynamic than Go-Powercat or K-StateFans."

Pierce said he sees *ksufans.com* as a site where fans can voice their opinions with less restraint than sites like *gopowercat.com* and *k-statefans.com*.

"A lot of people forget that fan is short for fanatical, and you can't be fanatical if you can't say what you want to say," Pierce said.

He said he is glad to be involved with the fans and the university, something he missed since leaving K-State, after his junior season in 2002. He said he even contacted Bill Snyder, whom he played under, as Snyder was looking for assistant

"We talked a little bit, but obviously the situation coach Snyder was in, he was looking to have much more experienced guys," Pierce said. "If that's what's important for K-State, then there are no hard feelings. I think I can do my part from the Web site."

Pierce operates *ksufans.com* out of Overland Park, Kan., where he lives and works for Waddell and Reed, a financial investment company.

The Denver Broncos drafted him in the second round of the 2003 NFL Draft, but after battling injuries for three years with the Broncos and the Houston Texans, he decided to go back to school.

He completed his final 11 hours through K-State's Distance Education program and graduated with a finance degree.

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